

Remarks

Claims 1-4, 6-10, 12, and 16-17 remain pending. Claims 5, 11 and 13-15 are hereby canceled without prejudice to facilitate issuance of the remaining claims. Claims 1, 6, 7, and 12 are hereby amended. No new matter is being added.

Allowable Subject Matter

Original claims 16-17 were allowed.

Original claims 5, 6, 11 and 12 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were deemed to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Original claim 5 depends from original claim 1 without any intervening claims. Original claim 11 depends from original claim 7 without any intervening claims.

Claim 1 is hereby amended to incorporate the allowable limitations of original claim 5 (and claim 5 is hereby canceled). Therefore, applicants respectfully submit that amended claim 1 is now in form for allowance.

Claim 7 is hereby amended to incorporate the allowable limitations of original claim 11 (and claim 11 is hereby canceled). Therefore, applicants respectfully submit that amended claim 7 is now in form for allowance.

Claims 2-4 and 6 depend from amended claim 1. Hence, applicants respectfully submit that claims 2-4 and 6 are now also in form for allowance.

Claims 8-10 and 12 depend from amended claim 7. Hence, applicants respectfully submit that claims 8-10 and 12 are now also in form for allowance.

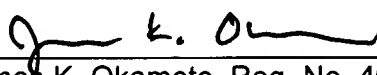
Conclusion

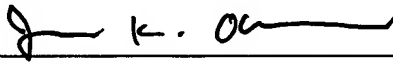
For the above-discussed reasons, applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-4, 6-10, 12, and 16-17 are now in form for allowance. Favorable action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dated:

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